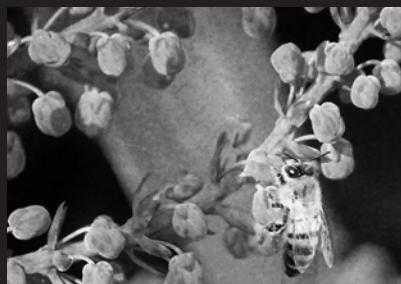




The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 39
Number 5
June 2014



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www.orsba.org

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

*A Joint Venture of OSBA and the
Oregon State University Extension Service*
info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org

W E L C O M E !

John Day Basin Beekeepers

Sustainability in Prisons –
Oregon Beekeepers

REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR APICULTURE ENDOWMENT MEETS

Kenny Williams

In 2007, Oregon State Beekeepers Association initiated an endowment fund with the Oregon State University Foundation called *The Northwest Apiculture Endowment for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education*. Although intended to fund the position of honey bee entomologist at Oregon State University when the principal is large enough to do so, the language in the agreement allows for using the accumulating interest for support of the apiculture program. The language in the agreement also calls for the formation of a Review Committee for the purpose of directing disbursements from the fund. In addition, it stipulates that the committee will comprise three OSU faculty members and three beekeepers. The beekeepers' names are to be provided by OSBA.

After the OSBA fall conference last November in Seaside, it came to my attention that Dr. Ramesh Sagili was in need of funds to support his ongoing research and extension activities. I spoke with OSBA President Paul Andersen about getting the ball rolling with the usable funds in the endowment, as there have been no disbursements made since the inception of the fund seven years ago. We came up with three beekeepers to be part of this first formation of the Review Committee: Jason Rowan of Creswell, George Hansen of Colton, and myself. I then wrote to Dr. Bill Braunworth, chair of the Horticulture Department, to apprise him of the endowment, the guidelines for the composition of the committee, and the names of the beekeeper members.

Dr. Braunworth set a date of April 15 of this year for the first meeting of the committee. The three faculty committee members present were: Dr. Braunworth; Dr. Vaughn Walton, entomologist; and Dr. Sujaya Rao, entomologist. Also in attendance was Dr. Ramesh Sagili, OSU's honey bee entomologist. We began by reviewing the language of the endowment agreement and the history behind the endowment. A discussion of current issues for beekeepers followed as well as an update on activities in Dr. Sagili's program. Ramesh put forward a summary of his vision for the honey bee lab for the next five to ten years, an ambitious and doable program focusing on honey bee health and nutrition, sustainable beekeeping practices, an expanded extension program involving sampling, studies on *Nosema ceranae*, investigations into pesticides and fungicides, studies in pollination, and the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program.

Ramesh also submitted a proposal on how he might best utilize the roughly \$31,000 in the expendable account of the endowment. This proposal included a study on improving honey bee nutrition during carrot seed pollination in central Oregon, a study into *Nosema ceranae* and its effects on colony nutrition, and development of best-management practices for beekeepers in order to enhance colony health.

Continued on page 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Computers and the Internet have had a pretty big impact on our lives over the last 20 years, some good and some not so good. Checking out at the store seems to take a lot longer, especially if the bar code is damaged, but for the most part it has made life easier. It brought us into the information age, and it is amazing how quickly you can find the answer to a question, although in some cases you have multiple answers to pick from. It seems like every day I am looking up some piece of data to help me make decision or to better understand something. Google and the Web have become almost indispensable, even in our personal lives. It has also become important for an organization like ours to maintain a Web presence.

Our website has become a resource for not only our members but for the public as well. We get about 100 visitors a day and about two-thirds come from a google search, and this doesn't include the people who go directly to our beekeeping forum, which is on a different service. Most of the hits go through to Beekeeping 101, Swarm Call List, Events, Bee Sales, and Regional Branches—the top five sub pages. So for a specialized website serving a niche market, we're pretty busy.

It was about 13 years ago when we started our first website and Thom Trusewicz took over as webkeeper. Over the years, he has had some help from Harry Vanderpool and Rosanna Mattingly. Well, Thom has asked to retire from this task and I want to thank him for all the service he has provided to OSBA over the years taking care of the website along with all the other hours he puts in helping out the organization in other ways. Thank You, Thom!!

With this, we needed to look into finding other volunteers interested in helping us out, and we found two people who are interested, talented, and ready to help out. I want to welcome Erin Olmon and Christopher Heath as our new webmasters. They are anxious to move forward and are looking at updating the look of the site along with adding some improvements and capabilities over the next 3–6 months.

So keep your eyes on the website and watch for changes.

Take care and stay healthy!

Paul

Review Committee—Continued from page 1

In the end, the committee voted to allow use of the full amount of the approximately \$31,000 in the expendable account. Dr. Sagili will prepare a report on results of the studies that employed the disbursement. There was agreement that the committee would meet again as needed and when there is once again enough money in the expendable fund to warrant discussion.

OSBA Executive Board Meeting

April 26, 2014 ♦ Canby, Oregon

Attendees: Jan Lohman, Kenny Williams, Jordan Dimock, Katharine Hunt, Tim Wessels, Bill Cathrell, Rosanna Mattingly, Dewey Caron, Lynn Royce, Bunny Carter, Mureen Walker, Paul Andersen, Joe Maresh, Todd Balsiger, Paul Maresh, and Chuck Sowers

President Paul Andersen called the OSBA meeting to order at 4:09 PM.

Minutes

The reading of the minutes was waived. Minutes will be typed and sent to all board members before approval. The request was made to remind everyone to read the minutes before the scheduled board meeting. Rosanna will send Bunny a copy of the minutes as printed to send out to everyone.

Treasurer's Report

Lynn Royce is working on the new QuickBooks program. The current account balances are \$5,897.40 in checking and \$20396.24 in savings. These accounts are in the Umpqua Bank in Corvallis. In the Pioneer Trust account, there is \$16,897.39. The motion was made to appoint Paul Andersen, Jan Lohman, and Lynn Royce as the signers on this account. Katharine Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed. In order to move forward with these changes, the minutes need to be approved and submitted to Pioneer Trust by Secretary Bunny Carter.

Lynn Royce also brought up the need to have a financial policies and a procedures manual for whoever steps into the treasurer's position. When Lynn agreed to take the position, she had no idea how difficult it would be. Paul Andersen said there was no reason we cannot do this. It would be good to identify pitfalls, maybe in a booklet.

The other concern that Lynn has is she has not been able to meet with the accountant. She has not been able to get past the bookkeeper. Paul Andersen will work to get Lynn and the QuickBooks consultant connected with the accountant to get answers to finish setting up the new system.

Bee Line Report

Rosanna Mattingly thanks everyone for submitting articles and asks that they continue. Some submitted items are brief and others need to be edited because there is only so much space. Tim Wessels asked about photos that are submitted. Rosanna said that she does want them, and that photos she cannot fit in, she keeps to use in future issues. Rosanna also reported that she is sending packets to new members and reminders for membership renewals.

Website Report

The OSBA has two new webmasters: Erin Olmon and Chris Heath. They are putting a lot of effort into what we can do with the website. It has been cleaned up to work with all browsers. There is a survey on the website, and the board is asked to take the survey. For doing the survey, people are automatically entered in a drawing for some really good honey.

The top three goals of the website are:

1. Education/Communication
2. Get info to members
3. Generate money by way of ads

Another purpose of the website would be to have conference registration online. Mention was made that the Message Board is a separate site and can bypass the website.

Regional and Association Reports

Todd Balsiger, **Portland Metro** regional representative, reported on the Message Board regarding one of his hives that came back from California. There were Small Hive Beetle larvae in the pollen patty. Jan Lohman also mentioned seeing Small Hive Beetle larvae in pollen patties in Florida. The Small Hive Beetle is attracted to pollen patties. Todd also said the Washington County Commissioners are wanting a speaker and anyone interested should contact them.

Joe Maresh, **Portland Metro** beekeepers president, reported on Bee Day at George Hansen's in Colton. Dr. Lynn Royce spoke about Chemical-Free Beekeeping. Dr. Caron spoke about Diagnosis and Managing Honey Bee

Diseases. Portland Metro is also hosting a Master Gardener event the first weekend in May. Portland Metro has been participating in the Winter Loss Survey as well. They are hosting a queen-rearing workshop on June 21. Dewey Caron will be teaching this workshop. Portland Metro attended an event at Intel, and they have distributed 214 nucs among their members. Most of the new people have two–five hives, instead of ten–twenty. The focus of their programs is changing; it is shifting to wintering over bees. Portland Metro is looking at hosting a bee school. They have had workshops on hive building.

Jordan Dimock, **Eastern Oregon** regional representative, reported that it is the best nectar and pollen for many years. Possibly the water shortage has something to do with it. They are critically short on water and irrigation, so a lot of small grains are being planted instead of corn. Also, Jordan was invited to talk to a kindergarten class about beekeeping.

Paul Maresh, **Cascadia Queen Breeders** chair, reported the next workshop is on May 17 in Corvallis. It is already full with overflow. This hands-on workshop will familiarize people with the different aspects and equipment of queen rearing. Cascadia is looking at a bulk purchase of queens for July or August. Also planning a visit to a queen breeder in Oregon or Washington in August.

Katharine Hunt, **Lane County** beekeepers president, reported the club participated in Bee Weekend 2014 with GloryBee in Eugene. They are participating in the Wildflower & Music Festival on May 18 in Eugene. The attendance at meetings has been over 100 people. The latest topic was Hive Management and Swarm Control. The club is organizing a field day for June to be held at Jason Rowan's place. They are working on a mentor list for the club members in addition to the existing mentor list for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program.

Tim Wessels, **Portland Urban** beekeepers president, reported their attendance also at almost 100 people at each meeting. The club is looking for a new secretary and event coordinator. They have been pushing the Bee Informed survey. They are waiting for final results, but are looking at the largest losses in the Portland area in last few years. They have had multiple presentations at the club meetings and are pushing for forage planting for the bees. Ellen Topitzhofer will be presenting her thesis on Honey Bee Nutrition at the next meeting.

Mureen Walker, **South Coast** regional representative, reported they did the winter loss survey. Reported percent loss and cause. Most were robbed out. Only one lost to disease and one disappeared with no evidence. For them, the best winter in a long time. Few rainy days. Pollen never

stopped flowing. Results of survey will be in next *Bee Line* (May issue), but losses were 30 percent. Working on a booth with Curry County Fair, where they will be located in Artisan Hall.

Bunny Carter, **Willamette Valley** beekeepers, reported they hosted Bee Day at Steven Coffman's on April 7. Fred VanNatta was the speaker for March. Willamette Valley hosted a vendor night along with speaker George Hansen for the end of Bee School in February. Ag Fest is April 26 and 27, and they are participating in that event this weekend.

Paul Andersen, **Tualatin Valley** beekeepers, reported they hosted their Bee School two weeks ago. Dr Sagili is speaking at their next meeting. Thus far they have distributed 111 nucs to their members. These nucs came from George Hansen.

Endowment

It was decided at the end of the 2013 Seaside conference to disburse the interest from the endowment. Dr Sagili needed the funds, so they got the ball rolling. In order to make the disbursement, Kenny Williams wrote a letter to Dr. Bill Braunworth asking him to set a committee meeting. The endowment agreement calls for a Review Committee of six, consisting of three OSU faculty members and three beekeepers named by the OSBA, to meet in order to guide disbursements from the expendable account of the fund. Dr. Bill Braunworth appointed Sujaya Rao and Vaughn Walton. The three beekeepers on the committee are George Hansen, Jason Rowan, and Kenny Williams. The committee reviewed the concerns of beekeepers: pesticides, sprays, pollination and nutrition. Dr Sagili put forward three proposals.

1. Study on honey bees on carrot seed in eastern Oregon
2. Study on *Nosema ceranae* and management
3. Integrated pest management for colony health

The committee voted to allow Dr Sagili's apiculture program to use all of the funds in the expendable account, about \$31,000, in support of all three proposals.

Oregon Master Beekeeper Program

Jan Lohman reported the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program expansion will be published in the *The Bee Line*. So far there have been 500 people educated in the program. Currently there are 196 people in the Apprentice level and 60–70 people in the Journey level.

Grants for Oregon Master Beekeeper Program

The 2011 grant is completed and the funds are paid. The 2013 grant has \$4,954.97 in the account in the Hermiston Bank. Oregon Department of Agriculture owes \$6,248.49.

The original grant was \$59,000. Currently, there is \$42,423.32 remaining.

Tech Transfer Team

Ellen Topitzhofer and Dan Wynn are going to Chico, California, to work. Ellen has finished her Master's degree and has taken a job as the Bee Informed Tech Transfer Team Lead, with Dr. Sagili administering the program at Oregon State University. Dan Wynn is her partner on the Tech Transfer Team. Twenty-one beekeepers have paid to participate in the program.

Bee Informed

Dewey Caron reported the Bee Informed site is still open. It has been extended through April to May 1. Dewey reported that the losses have been frightful. Commercial numbers are a little better.

Committee for Fairs and Exhibits

Ag Fest is April 26 and 27. Oregon State Fair will run from August 23 to September 1. The OSBA Fairs and Exhibits Committee will start soliciting volunteers to work shifts in the booth in July. There will be three days shifts (10 AM–2 PM, 2–6 PM, 6–9 PM). Dewey is recommending the sign-ups for volunteering be online on the newly formatted OSBA website. We have an expanded booth (4 spaces total), which will include a children's area.

The ink is still wet on the honey rules, but changes have been made. The honey competition is now a separate competition. The judging standards and the entry categories have been modernized. Details in the *Exhibitor Handbook*. There will be four divisions, two entry levels: Youth (17 and under) and Oregon adult beekeeper. There is no entry fee, and ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

All entries must be entered online by August 7. The honey entries themselves will then be accepted at remote locations. They must be appropriately packaged for transportation. The honey entries may be dropped off at the State Fairgrounds on Saturday, August 9 (noon to 8 PM), and Sunday, August 16 (noon to 8 PM). Judging is on August 16, the weekend before the Fair opens. There is an opportunity for Oregon Master Beekeeper Journey-level people to participate in the honey judging. The website for the State Fair is www.oregonstatefair.org. Open June 1 for business.

Pesticides

Legislature introduced bills to ban neonicotinoids in Oregon. This was opposed by the Grange. Harry Vanderpool and Fred VanNatta are active in the legislative process. Harry and Fred have attended and given statements.

Old Business

2013 Conference

After all the bills were paid and books were closed, OSBA cleared \$428.00. The attendance for conference was 248.

2014 Conference

Conference is from November 6 to November 8. It will be important to manage expenses for the conference.

Thursday: Oregon Master Beekeeper Institute; Thursday eve: "More Than Honey" documentary

Friday speakers: Marla Spivak, University of Minnesota; Dennis vanEnglesdorp, University of Maryland; Kim Flottom: Editor, *Bee Culture*

Friday: Banquet and auction

There will also be honey show at the conference. Ideas presented to increase revenues for OSBA included: increased conference cost and increased charges for vendor tables. Another point Paul made was that we need to monitor the speakers' expenses closely. The auctions at conference were brought up. Rosanna asked that we set up procedures ahead of time so that we are able to keep better records this year, as has been done in the past.

Budget

There was discussion on the individual points of the budget.

The Bee Line: This dollar amount includes more than *The Bee Line*, such as packets to new members, mailing renewal reminders, and the membership directory.

CPA Bookkeeping: Discussion came up about the accountant contract. The current contract is up in September. It is necessary to make a realign of our books. The accountant is also taking over some of the duties the Kowashes did in the past. The subject will be revisited at the August meeting.

Dues: Discussion was about all the clubs. They are reporting great attendance, but still OSBA numbers are low. Paul Andersen said he was contacting all club presidents about the memberships. The more members from each group, the stronger they are and will have more of a voice.

Insurance: The OSBA insurance policy was increased from a one million dollar policy to a two million dollar policy. This is available to all association branches of OSBA.

Events: Other event expenses is a new charge for the storage room. It will be used to store promotional materials, festival displays. Paul Andersen will donate a file cabinet. We are required to maintain certain historical documents and original documents for the IRS. The organization has past files and documents stored in several locations.

Travel: This budget item has been removed. OSBA will not

pay this amount. It will come out of the Research money. Todd Balsiger made a motion to pass the budget, and it was seconded by Paul Maresh. Budget passed, but it was noted that it needs to be revisited.

New Business

New Clubs

To be a new regional affiliate, a club needs to have five OSBA members. There are two new regional affiliates.

John Day Basin Beekeepers: Liz Lovelock is the contact. Sustainability in Prisons – Oregon Beekeepers (SPP-OB): Karessa Torgerson is the contact.

2015 Conference Venue

There are two venues being considered for the 2015 Conference. The Oregon Garden in Salem and the Convention Center in Florence. The Oregon Garden is 50 miles from Portland, and Florence is 60 miles from Eugene. The dollars and driving time from airports are pretty much equal.

There is the possibility that a hotel in Salem can run a shuttle to Oregon Garden. Both places can accommodate the convention. Paul Andersen asked for a show of hands for interest in each venue. The majority was for the Oregon Garden. Harry Vanderpool, Paul Andersen, and Katharine Hunt will meet again shortly to work on details.

Legislative Agenda

Paul Maresh shared recent articles on the chemical hearings in Salem. He asked if we had a legislative agenda. Proposed that we do a grassroots campaign with the legislature. This campaign would have an agenda to work with agencies such as the Grange and Orchardists on pesticides and chemical regulations. Todd Balsiger made a motion of advocacy to discuss at our next meeting. Joe Maresh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

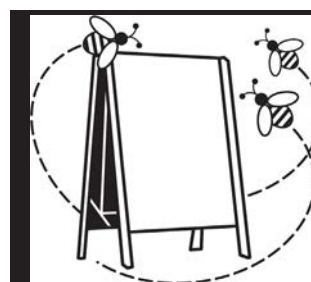
Other

The next OSBA Board Meeting will be held on August 16 in the afternoon. Venue to be determined, but location will be in Salem.

Jordan Dimock made the motion to end the meeting, and Todd Balsiger seconded it. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

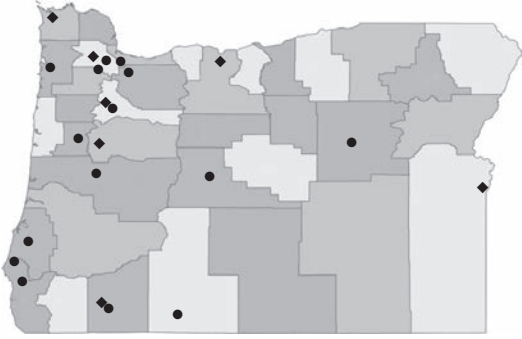
Bunny Cramer-Carter



**What might we learn
from the bees today?**

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



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503.332.5410; paulande@easystreet.net

Vice President: Dewey Caron
302.353.9914 (April–October)
carond@hort.oregonstate.edu

Secretary: Bunny Cramer-Carter
PO Box 779, Stayton 97383
503.703.8546; dbcramer@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Royce
30807 Decker Ridge Rd, Corvallis 97333
541.929.5337; mitebee@peak.org

Past President: Jan Lohman
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541.567.3209; 541.980.0304 (cell)
jan.lohman55@gmail.com

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541.373.7010; mureen98@gmail.com

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541.354.2223; bfamilylive.com

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541.372.2726

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541.708.1127; sarah@beegirl.org

North Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool
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503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

South Willamette Valley: Jason Rowan
80881 Turkey Run Rd, Creswell 97426
541.942.6479; beetanical@q.com

• OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Cascadia Queen Breeders

Meets quarterly. Contact the secretary for information.

Chair: Paul Maresh

503.283.2060; pmaresh@spiretech.com

Vice Chair: James Hensel

Secretary: Alvalea Fong

503.742.0910; mamagoose@mac.com

Treasurer: Rex McIntire

503.720.7958; remcintire_5@msn.com

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, second Thursday

Partners in Care, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct, Bend

Visit www.orsba.org, Message Board, Central Oregon

Branch. For information and meeting details, email:

contact@cobeekeeping.org

Ring Leader: Bindy Beck-Meyer

Bookkeeper: Allen Engle

Website: www.cobeekeeping.org

Coos County Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday (except December)

Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Point

President: John Gardner—541.572.3847

Vice President: Shigeo Oku—541.396.4016

Secretary: Bobbie Gardner—541.572.3847

Treasurer: Jane Oku

541.396.4016; janeoku1958@gmail.com

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday (except Nov/Dec)

OSU Extension, 3328 Vandenberg Rd, Klamath Falls

President: Jim Smith

541.892.5888; tulebee@gmail.com

Vice President: Doug Youngberg

dyoungberg@e-isco.com

Secretary: Cathy Vick

541.884.6274; elliott772@aol.com

Treasurer: Steve Vick

541.884.6274; stevevick@aol.com

Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

Lane County Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Trinity United

Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene

President: Katharine Hunt

541.607.0106; keehhunt@gmail.com

Vice President: Pam Leavitt—541.344.4228

Secretary: Jodi Wiktorowski

Treasurer: Polly Habliston

Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn-Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, fourth Wednesday, South First
Alternative Co-op Meeting Room, 1007 SE 3rd, Corvallis

President: Linda Zielinski
541.929.4856; llz50@peak.org

Vice President: Steve Oda
541.745.7227; odafamily1@comcast.net

Secretary: Robert Williams
rober2w@gmail.com

Treasurer: Suzi Maresh
541.967.9607; sjomaresh@msn.com

Website: www.lbba.us

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, third Wednesday, OSU Extension Office
located at the Fairgrounds in Gold Beach

President: Carla Fletcher

Vice President: Jim Sorber

Secretary: Wayne Berry
berrydogs@gmail.com

Treasurer: Barbara Fitts

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Clackamas Community
College, Clairmont Hall, Room 118, Oregon City

President: Joe Maresh
503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

Vice President: Rex McIntire
503.720.7958; remcintire_5@msn.com

Secretary: Patty Anderson
503.887.7057; wiseacrefarms@me.com

Treasurer: Barb Derkacht
503.631.3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, first Wednesday, Calaroga Terrace
Rtmt Comm, Terrace Auditorium, 1400 NE Second
Ave, Portland. For information, email: officers@
portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

President: Tim Wessels—503.380.9381
president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Vice President: Bill Catherall—503.572.6467
vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Secretary: Mike Card—971.207.9726
secretary@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Treasurer: Keith Gilman—503.830.3178
treasurer@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, first Monday, Southern Oregon
(6:30 PM hands-on demo at SOBA hives thru bee season)
Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point

President: John Jacob
541.582.BEES; john@oldsolenterprises.com

Vice President: Ron Padgett
541.592.4678; padgett25@frontiernet.net

Secretary: Dana Rose—puckamok@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Cheryl Housden—541.955.5146
chousden@earthlink.net

Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org
facebook.com/SouthernOregonBeekeepersAssociation

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Tuesday (except December),
Fresh Cafe, 9120 5th Street, Bay City

President: Bob Allen—503.322.3819

Vice President: Jim Fanjoy
503.637.5522 ; jim@fanjoy.com

Secretary: Jeffrey Hall
503.739.0893; jlh434@mac.com

Treasurer: Stan Scotton
503.232.4945 ; 4scotton@gmail.com

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, last Tuesday
Cameron Public Svcs Bldg, 155 N First Ave, Hillsboro

President: Mike Van Dyke
503.642.5338; mvand581@gmail.com

Vice President: Andrew Schwab
503.538.7545; beesbuzzin@gmail.com

Secretary: Paul Andersen
503.332.5410; paulande@easystreet.net

Treasurer: Jerry Maasdam
503.648.7906; jmaasdam@mac.com

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Chemeketa
Community College, Building 34, Room A, Salem

President: Richard Farrier—541.327.2673

Vice President: Bunny Cramer-Carter
503.703.8546; dbcramer@hotmail.com

Secretary: Mike Rodia
503.364.3275; 46donnakay@gmail.com

Treasurer: Patricia Swenson—pkswenson@gmail.com

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REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

North Coast

Our coastal region is getting a good mixture of intense sun and abundant rain allowing our blackberries to be budding as of May 14. We are hearing from beekeepers that bees on the coast are building up well. The packages that I purchased this year are heavy with brood at this time—so the push is on to get bee populations up to meet the peak nectar flow. I recently noticed honey bees working on Cotoneaster—a woody shrub that is a good groundcover from which the bees gain both nectar and pollen. I've learned to love the way beekeeping blends into botany. Gearhart beekeeper Tony Phillips reports that he is in contact with a small cranberry grower for future pollination work. As of 2014, the Long Beach peninsula area (on the Washington side of the Columbia River to the north of us) now has 27 cranberry growers with 650 acres. We North Coasters wish everyone a great month of June with the bees.

—Terry Fullan

South Coast

A bee gum is now part of the CCBA Apiary in Myrtle Point, next to the OSU Extension office, thanks to the efforts and donation by Shigeo and Jane Oku, Coos County beekeepers. Along with others, they secured the bees inside the log with sheets and loaded it onto the Oku trailer. The log hive is about 4-feet high and roughly 20 inches in diameter with a capacity of a deep brood box. Shigeo sealed the top with spray foam and plans to seal the bottom for winter. For now, it sits nicely in the gravel. Split donation was the following week when the Okus invited several members to come to their home to learn by observing how to make a split. Shigeo donated the split to the CCBA apiary and the two members participating helped in setting it up in the beeyard.

Ten Russian bee nucs from Old Sol Apiaries are expected in mid-May, one for the CCBA Apiary and the rest for club members. Old Sol has been developing for six years an adapted line of mite-resistant bees from ones developed by Drs. Harbo and Harris at the USDA Honey Bee Breeding and Genetics Laboratory, known as Suppressed Mite Reproduction (SMR) or *Smart Bees*. We hope to be "Beekeeping with More Smiles." I am planning to try at least one double deep frame in the double deep brood box and am still seeking the best boomer-gal, easy-lift, kidney-friendly method of beekeeping that also maximizes the health of honey bee colonies.

Package bees were distributed at the mid-April meeting. The weather was dripping 100 percent humidity for two

days. Some of us hived them then anyway. President Carla Fletcher held out for sun, laying the packages on their sides and placing pierced baggies of syrup on the top screen. I identified my three packages by the comparative quantity of "hitchhikers" thinking that that might indicate the more-potent queen. The first package had an empty syrup can. They apparently fed it all away to their hitchhikers. When the sun came out on the third day, my bees were in a high frenzy. What?! Are the established residents, the Carniolans and the domestic swarm colony bees, offended to have California Italians move into their neighborhood? While filling the air with smoke and mist to get them to go back into their own hives, I saw a flash of brilliant emerald green on the porch of #1 package hive, the one that had dropped the most yellow streaks on my beesuit. They were dragging their assassinated queen to dump. A new club attendee, who had gotten his bee packages from the same source a week prior to the club delivery, also had a queen assassinated. I am including a tablespoon of vinegar in each gallon of syrup for all feedings now. Carla says that she also is experimenting with vinegar for Nosema. The third swarm within a week emerged from the abandoned hive in Gold Beach, and Jim Sorber hived it. —Mureen Walker

South Willamette Valley

Summer is on its way here in the south valley. This spring we had some great weather and some poor weather, but the bees still seemed to build up just fine. At this time of year, it's best to keep a watchful eye on our fuzzy friends. Now that the early flows are over and the hives are reaching swarming point, check them often. Starving can happen up till there are enough blooms on the blackberries, so don't make the mistake and lose you colony right before the honey season. Similarly, watch for swarming signs like cells, congestion, and bees on trees. If your colonies swarm just prior to bloom, there goes your bees and your honey. If you find that you have a starving problem, try taking frames from a different colony or do some feeding. If you have swarming signs, make a split or boost a small colony with extra brood and bees. Remember mites? If you did not treat in the spring, then do an alcohol wash or drop test and know where your levels are at. I hope the below-zero temps we had this year have not killed too many berries. Keep your fingers crossed for a good year. Be safe and happy keeping.

—Jason Rowan

Southern Oregon

Spring has sprung here in Southern Oregon! The combination of good rains and sunny weather has the vetch popping. The hills are blanketed in purple, and just gorgeous. We are keeping our fingers crossed for more of the same fortunate weather and beautiful blossoms as we

head into summer.

The crop of new beekeepers in Southern Oregon is also continuing to bloom! We had another record attendance at Bee School, held on April 19. Over 100 participants came to the Jackson County OSU Extension Center to spend the day immersed in all things bees. SOBA Vice Prez started the day off with an introduction to beekeeping and beekeeping equipment. We always learn so much from Ron, who was also just featured in the March issue of the *American Beekeeping Journal* (see “Keeping Bees in Southern Oregon at Cave Junction,” page 297). The program continued with Dewey Caron teaching honey bee biology, myself teaching seasonal management, and then a break for lunch. We picked back up with hands-on demos in hives donated for the day by President John Jacob. The day finished back inside with a class on honey bee hive products for health by myself and disease and pest management with Dewey. The day was a smash hit! Thank you to the speakers, volunteers, donors for the door prize raffle, and organizers Carl Lorenz, Cheryl Housden, Dana Rose, and Betsy Smullen.

Also in April, Russ Williamson organized beekeepers for 4-H Hands on Ag Day. It was an opportunity for kids in the region to come out to the fairgrounds and get an up-close look at the work of our ag professionals in Southern Oregon. The group had an observation hive, beekeeping gear, and of course honey sticks!

In other news, SOBA unanimously voted to support Measure 15-119, which would ban certain GMO crops in Jackson County. It's a hot-button issue, but SOBA felt this is a good move for bees and beekeepers. As more and more beekeepers dot our communities with beehives, we have also seen increased swarm activity. John did a great job addressing swarm management in our March meeting. We also have a “swarm form” on our new website (thank you, again, Ellen), which makes swarm reporting easy and efficient for our community. —Sarah Red-Laird

Regional Associations

Cascadia Queen Breeders

We had our second annual Queen Rearing Workshop on May 17. Pavel Goleta gave “A Simple Method for Raising Queen Bees” to 26 attendees. It was a very interesting and informative presentation. Heike Williams discussed queen selection and testing for hygienic behavior. After lunch, Pavel demonstrated how to make wax cell cups, and we had a chance to try making some and getting them to stay on the small piece of wood. Then Heike explained the different grafting tools, and we had a chance to try our hands at grafting! There was a display of different kinds of queen-rearing tools and gadgets that different beekeepers

use. Everyone had a good time, gained knowledge and appreciation of our honey bees. —Alvarea Fong

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Packages and nucs are installed and beekeepers are watching their bees carefully, checking stores and feeding when necessary, as the Klamath County spring makes itself known: some sunshine and beautiful warm weather, followed by lovely spring rain, followed by brisk and very cool breezes, then some snow or hail or graupel. Spring presents many challenges to Klamath Basin beekeepers. The blossoms of the fruit trees are plentiful, the wild shrubs of chokecherry, bitter cherry, and bitter brush are blooming profusely, and it is too cold for the bees to fly.

The April meeting was well attended. Thirty nucs were delivered to club members, and the day was warm enough to install them. Discussion about spring management, package installation, and a question-and-answer session about current beekeeping questions was held.

Robert Clements shared his method of dealing with “Too Many Bees.” His approach is as a backyard beekeeper, with intent to share ideas that may work for other amateur beekeepers. He plans to have similar contributions to meetings in the future.

Donna Schmerbach shared a slide presentation and talk with extensive information on nectar sources in the Klamath Basin. Donna brings many years of beekeeping experience and a vast interest and knowledge of the plant resources of the Klamath Basin. Her information serves as a valuable tool in helping the local beekeepers plant bee-friendly plants and recognize other bee-friendly plant resources in the area.

Katharina Davitt is planning an information beekeeping booth at the Migratory Bird Fair on May 10. Her plans include posters, an observation hive, honey tasting, and kid activities. —Cathy Vick

Lane County Beekeepers

A number of our club members answered the request for volunteers to speak to community groups during April and May. On April 16, Pam Leavitt was invited to speak to the Eugene Lions Club. They were interested in learning basic honey bee facts, concerns over the health of pollinator populations, and the impact on the world food supply. She talked about the joys of keeping honey bees, also. The group was very attentive and asked many questions to gain additional knowledge. It was a pleasure for her to share what we as beekeepers know with a group that was eager to learn. Another LCBA member, Chip Kiger, did a presentation at Parkside Pre-School on April 23. He took along an observation hive so the kids could observe the

bees. In May, a number of members under the leadership of Jenny Buckley hosted a booth at the annual Mt. Pisgah Wildflower Festival.

Recently Rita Ostrofsky reported to our club that Morris Ostrofsky, who had done a presentation on The Miller Method of graft-free queen rearing at both the Washington and Oregon State conventions during the fall of 2013, was asked to take the "show" on the road. Earlier this year, he was contacted by the Olympia, Washington, club with the request that he do this presentation at one of their monthly meetings. Morris and Rita drove to Olympia, where Morris shared this method of queen rearing to a large crowd of interested beekeepers on April 14. The club had done advance advertising that added about 25 more attendees to the already packed school cafeteria. The club has since requested that Morris return to do another presentation.

Later in May a group from the Tillamook club visited Morris's apiary for a demonstration of one phase of the Miller Method as well as instruction on how to mark queens. Morris also spoke to our club during May. His presentation was "Reading Frames" which was a good topic to follow Chuck Hunt, who spoke in April about Swarms and Hive Evaluation.

Our June meeting will see us learning about pests and diseases. This will be presented by our Vice President Pam Leavitt. Also in June we will be hosting our annual Field Day. This will take place on June 14 at Jason Rowan's apiary near Creswell.

—Katharine Hunt

Portland Metro Beekeepers

The Portland Metro sponsored Bee Day held on April 26 was a great success. There was an amazing amount of information for new and old hobby beekeepers. There were also presenters at hives where participants were able to work with experienced beekeepers and have a hands-on experience.

Our May meeting speakers were Dewey Caron and Bill Mares. Big news this year includes the changes to the State Fair standards. Beekeeping/honey will be a separate division, and there will be new judging standards. We also discussed the preliminary results of the winter loss survey that Dr. Caron requested from our members. The results were not good as there were more losses in the Portland Metro area than the other areas in the state. Dr. Caron reviewed queen rearing and different ways to raise your own queens. Bill Mares and Dr. Caron also discussed their experiences in Bolivia this year. They work with Food4Farmers co-op in several villages and teach them beekeeping. They also discussed the aggressive Africanized bees. Our June meeting will feature discussions on Natural Bee Keeping: Chemical and Treatment Free.

—Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Portland Urban Beekeepers have had a busy couple months installing nucs and packages, replacing queens, filling out winter-loss surveys, placing their swarm traps, and chasing after swarms on the move. With the nectar flow ramping up, the Portland metropolitan area has only seen three bouts of beautiful warm weather in April. This sparked concentrated swarming activity. May 1 saw a high of 88 degrees, but there have been way too many days of grey skies and precipitation that have kept bees indoors for longer than anyone would like. Of the last 30 days, half have seen measurable precipitation. However, the forecast calls for a week of beautiful 80-degree weather ahead, which will undoubtedly support another round of concentrated "swarm chasing."

The diversity of the Portland ecosystem was front and center with a presentation with a presentation on honey



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bee health and nutrition by Ellen Topitzhofer at our May meeting. Ellen recently completed her M.S. in the Horticulture Department at Oregon State University. Some say this is the most-important topic for the future survival of all pollinators. Portland has a Mediterranean climate with dry warm summers and mild winters. The area within 25 miles is covered by forests (77 percent), built-up areas (10 percent), croplands (8 percent), and lakes and rivers (4 percent). This ecosystem provides different flora and different pollen.

Membership and attendance at general meetings has been exploding. At the April meeting, we had 90 people in attendance and 114 at the May meeting. During last year's bee season, we saw an average of 60 people at monthly meetings. With PUB entering its third year of formal existence, all signs point to continued growth. This has forced the PUB Board to relook at its constitution and bylaws. A vote on a more-robust constitution and bylaws is due after June's membership meeting. The proposed constitution and bylaws changes are an attempt to improve the organization by improving our organizational structure and operational design. One of the more-obvious changes will be the addition of an education and events director to the board and focusing more energy on our educational function and programs.

—Michael Carlson

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Treasurer Stan Scotton reported on final accounting of Bee Day and acknowledged Earl and Sheila Reeves for their lunch assistance, which accounted for our actually making money rather than the event costing the club money. Next year's Bee Day will again be held at the Tillamook Grange and on April 14, 2015. Dewey Caron has acknowledged that he is willing to participate. We discussed having participants fill out an evaluation form at the next Bee Day.

There was a general discussion of how newly occupied hives are doing and how member's bees are faring. Most reported strong hives even this early in the season. Wes Preston gave an informed talk on essential oils and his experiences. He has researched essential oils well and passed on his resources.

His successes are encouraging. We recommended "The Fat Bee Man" on YouTube for innovative ideas. Several of us attended the Cascadia Queen Rearing workshop given by Pavel Goleta, and I'm sure I speak for us all that it was a roaring success. The demonstrations and hands-on workshop were invaluable. Many of us came away realizing that this is indeed something we can do. The art is in the timing.

—Jeffrey Hall

KEEPING BEES IN JUNE

Todd Balsiger

Blackberries are in full bloom this month; nectar flow will be at its zenith. Recommendations are as follows:

- ❖ Super ahead of the need for space. This increases honey production and reduces swarming. You may want to walk through your apiary and reshuffle the supers away from colonies that are lagging behind and give them to strong colonies packing the honey in.
- ❖ If you have foundation to draw, get it on now. Summer's nectar dearth is around the corner. Continue to replace old, poor-quality brood frames with foundation. It is recommended to replace brood frames every five years.
- ❖ Remove and extract supers containing well-ripened honey. The moisture content should be around 17.8 percent or less. Honey harvested early in the season (June) has more moisture than late-season honey (late July/August). Avoid harvesting too many frames of uncapped honey early in the season or you may risk having too much moisture in your honey—a bad thing. You can check the ripeness of uncapped honey in a given frame by giving it a hard downward shake. If there is a shower of nectar, then it is too wet to extract.
- ❖ If you have hives around agriculture crops, then become familiar with the pesticides that are commonly used on them. Make inquiries. Find out what's going to be sprayed, when, and the dangers the spray poses to your bees. It may be very prudent to move your bees out. See OSU Extension Publication PNW 591 for more information on how to reduce bee poisoning.
- ❖ Some hives may still be on a swarm trajectory. It is possible to lessen the likelihood of swarming by doing some work! Remove forming queen cells, rotate brood boxes, and pull from two to four frames of bees and brood. Replace the void with empty comb. You can add the frames of bees and brood to weaker colonies or make new startups. Note that swarm cups are a natural condition in the hive; their presence does not necessarily mean the hive will swarm.
- ❖ Swarms issue one or two days after the first queen cells are capped. If you find a colony at this stage, I would not

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destroy the queen cells as this colony probably needs them. If you want more bees, then with care remove a few frames of bees and brood along with some queen cells. Put them in a nuc as usual and let them raise their own queen. Make sure to leave queen cells behind. I would avoid “digging” too much. Every time you pull a frame, there is the possibility of destroying queen cells on the bottom of the frame. Make sure to leave queen cells behind. I would avoid “digging” too much. Every time you pull a frame, there is the possibility of destroying queen cells on the bottom of the frame.

❖ This is my own opinion, but since the introduction of the Varroa mite I think the “badness” of swarming is overplayed. Through swarming, new queens are raised and

the brood cycle is broken up. This will reduce the Varroa population. I have found it still possible to get one or two westerns of honey from colonies that have swarmed.

❖ Provide a steady supply of water.

❖ Continue to be on the lookout for American foulbrood.

Adapted from: *The Bee Line*, June 2010.

Without Chemicals

Lynn Royce

The beautiful queens and their genetics are critical to the health of the colony and healthy drones, who supply the other half of the genetics to the workers. So, be happy when there are a lot of drones in a colony, especially if you like the colony and it stays healthy.

We can test for some traits that are helpful and then select for them. It does not take a degree in genetics to do this, but you should understand some basics: recessive and dominance of traits, hybrid vigor, haploid, and diploid are a few important topics that would help you with selection. An example of a recessive trait we can test for is hygienic behavior, where the workers remove dead and dying brood.

Also, a young productive queen may be able to produce enough workers for the colony to outgrow the disease for a time.

This is a complex system and to understand it better, spend some time reading a good basic genetics text. It also will help if you read more about the common diseases we see in our managed bees.



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CHANGES COMING TO OREGON STATE FAIR Honey & Products of the Hive Show

Dewey Caron

The 2014 Oregon State Fair honey competition is now a separate division. We have been able to get the judging standards and the entry categories modernized. See the *Exhibitor Handbook* for details (www.oregonstatefair.org). The Honey Show will have four divisions: Beekeeping Photographs (3 classes), Beeswax (4 classes), Extracted Honey (3 color classes, 3 pint or pound jars per entry), and Other Honey (5 classes comb/cut-comb/chunk/creamed/extracting frame). There is no entry fee. Ribbons (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) for each class. Two entry levels: Youth (17 and under) and Oregon adult beekeeper.

For entering products: entries must be entered **online by August 7**. Honey Show entries are accepted at remote locations (consult the Oregon State Fair website for dates and locations). If using the remote locations, the entries need to be appropriately packaged for transportation and entries cannot be returned to the remote location. They are accepted at the Salem Fairgrounds on Saturday, August 9, NOON to 8 PM and Sunday, August 10, NOON to 8 PM.

Judging: Judging will be Saturday, **August 16**, the weekend before the Fair opens.

The Oregon State Fair is **August 23–September 1**. We will solicit Fair booth volunteers in three daily shifts (10 AM–2 PM, 2–6 PM, 6–9 PM). We will have an expanded booth (4 spaces total) with a children's area set up for youth-oriented education.



For specific questions:

Trevor Riches—tjriches@gmail.com,
503.559.0191

Dewey Caron—dmcaron@udel.edu,
302.353.9914

For general questions about the Fair and other competitions:

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PESTICIDES RULED OUT IN SHERWOOD EVENT

A recent report in *The Oregonian* indicates that the Oregon Department of Agriculture found no evidence to suggest that pesticides were involved in the recent deaths of honey bees along 99W in Sherwood. A spokesperson for the department states that the bees were likely killed by highway traffic.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 28–August 1: **Eastern Apiculture Society Conference.** Visit: www.easternapiculture.com/conferences/eas-2014.html

August 2–3: **Western Treatment-Free Conference.** Visit: www.blisshoneybees.org/2014conference.html

September 17–20: **Western Apiculture Society Conference.** Visit: ucanr.edu/sites/was2/Conference_Information/Conference_Details/

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The Bee Line

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Governor Kitzhaber has announced appointment of Ramesh Sagili, George Hansen, and others to a task force established by the 2013 Legislature on "pollinator health" to start meeting in June. All good wishes.

The Bee Line

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions to the newsletter are included with each membership in OSBA.

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as events, corrections, comments, questions, photographs and stories (both from "old" times and "new"), interviews, recipes, and points of view to: Rosanna Mattingly, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; email: osba.newsletter@gmail.com. It's your newsletter—we want to hear from you!

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